

April 2011 Issue

Milton Township News *Spring*

Office Hours:

Monday 9:00-5:00
Wednesday 9:00-1:00
Friday 9:00-5:00



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Special Points of Interest

Township Scholarship

\$500 to SWMC
Applications & Details on Website & at Township Hall
Deadline Friday @ 4pm
April 29, 2011

Trash Day & Document Shredding

Saturday - April 30th
7:00am - 11:00am

Planning Commission Open House Master Plan

Saturday - May 14th
9:00am - Noon

Cass County Hazardous Waste Electronics & Used Tire Collection

@ Cass Co Fair Grounds
Saturday May 21st
9:00am - Noon

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

3rd Monday Each Month
Township Board of Trustees
7:00 pm

1st Monday Each Month
Planning Commission
6:30 pm

Milton Planning Commission Announces Upcoming Master Plan Open House Saturday—May 14th 9am– Noon

Over the past year, the Milton Township Planning Commission has been working diligently on a complete review and re-write of the Township Master Plan. The Master Plan outlines a preferred future for the Township and is necessary to support local zoning.

The Planning Commission worked with the consulting firm of Williams & Works to develop the plan and many Township residents provided input at the community workshop last spring. Now the draft plan has been assembled and will be available for public review and comment before the Planning Commission and Township Board consider it for final approval.

An Open House is scheduled for May 14th, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the Milton Township Community Center next to the Township Hall to give residents a chance to come in and learn more about the plan and to talk one-on-one with members of the Planning Commission and the consulting team.

This will be a drop-in event and people will be able to see summaries of the plan's content, look at the maps and graphics and learn more about the vision for the future outlined in the plan.

It also provides a very efficient way for the Planning Commission to learn more about residents' concerns and to adjust

the final plan to better address them.

After the open house, the Planning Commission will make any needed changes and eventually hold the public hearing required by law. After that, the Township Board will review the Plan and ultimately it will be adopted by the Board, either as presented by the Planning Commission or with further adjustments.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to review the Plan either at the open house or on the Township's website www.miltontwp.org

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



Scholarship Award

NOW BEING ACCEPTED

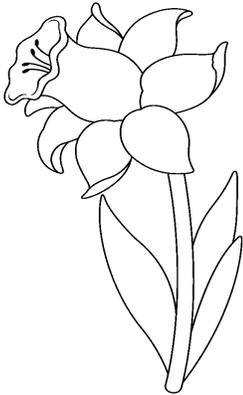
SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

Each year the Milton Township Board awards a \$500 Scholarship to Southwestern Michigan College.

Applications for the scholarship are now being accepted through 4pm on Friday, April 29, 2011. For more information, requirements, and the application form you may go to the township website or visit the township hall during office hours.

From Our Zoning Administrator
ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE

“It’s all
about being
a good
neighbor”



Happy Mothers Day May 8th

The vast majority of Michigan Townships have Zoning and Civil Ordinances. Many of those provisions have been in place for about 100 years. Those regulations exist to protect property owners and residents, as well as to promote the peace, safety and general welfare. Some of the key outcomes of any ordinance are to: protect property values, and prohibit incompatible uses/conduct in the various Zoning Districts.

Milton Township has operated under a Zoning Ordinance since 1985, and various Civil Ordinances since about 1990. For the last few years, Milton Township has enforced its ordinances by first “seeking compliance” from the resident and/or property owner. That is the approach we still take, with one new provision. The township recently amended Section 16 of the Zoning Ordinance to change violations from being a criminal matter to being a “civil infraction.” This change was implemented to better facilitate ordinance

compliance in the Township. Changing enforcement to a civil matter also provides for more effective remedial action should a resident/property owner ignore reasonable Township notices to move into compliance.

We will soon emerge from the very long and rough winter of 2010-2011. When that happens please examine your property and voluntarily take any needed actions. Also, if you intend to erect/enlarge any structure, or change the use of any property, you should check to ensure you are in compliance with the Milton Township Ordinances. It’s all about being a good neighbor and keeping Milton Township a desirable place to be.

Paul J. Sniadecki, Zoning Administrator

From Our Township Supervisor

CENSUS: Recently the U.S. Census released its numbers for the State of Michigan. These numbers reflected an increase of 46.6% increase in population for Milton Township from 2,646 to 3,878. This increase really stresses the need for you to provide your input into Milton’s planning for the next 10 years. Do you want 46% more growth over the next 10 years? Do you want more parks? These are concerns you can express to the Planning Commission on May 14th when they have their open house to discuss their proposed master plan. I highly encourage you to take a few minutes to drop by and give your input.

***** TRASH DAY—APRIL 30th *****

I want to make sure you are aware of Milton’s **Upcoming Trash Day**. April 30th from 7am-11am. As always, no concrete, rocks, railroad ties, dirt, tires, and hazardous waste. This trash service is free for Milton Township residents (you will need to bring proof of residency).

This year Tri Noble will be providing at NO-COST free document shredding (up to 96 gallon tote). Give yourself piece of mind by diligently protecting your documents by using their on-site shredding services.

Edwardsburg Ambulance Service will be onsite to perform blood pressure checks.

Niles Township Fire Department will be onsite to sell green address number signs.

Finally I want to thank all of the residents that have provided input to make Milton Township a better place either through volunteering or providing feedback at meetings or by contacting me directly. If you have an issue, concern, or suggestion, please feel free to contact me anytime. Also, catch us on the web for the latest upcoming events of the township.

Robert Benjamin
Milton Township Supervisor
(269) 262-0111
supervisor@miltontwp.org



Blood Pressure Checks



Green Address Signs



Document Shredding

From Our Township Clerk's Office

SPRING CLEANING: As the weather starts to warm-up, we all are thinking of it and the clerk's office is no different. Our office has been working diligently to get the State of Michigan Qualified Voter Files ("QVF") for all Milton Township residents updated with the proper 5-digit addresses, voter-identification cards to all residents, and remove any names that are no longer voting residents. The Township has over 2,500 registered voters, and during the November election we distributed about 900 cards, have mailed out over another 1,000 since that time, and getting the remaining 600+ names updated with proper addresses and new voter ID cards. A BIG thank you needs to go out to your deputy clerk, Flena Rubalcaba, for taking on this daunting task.



May 3rd – REMEMBER TO VOTE for the school board elections of Brandywine and Edwardsburg School Districts. Both voting polls will be at the Township Community Center. For those voters who require an absentee ballot, they are now available. Contact the clerk's office if you are not on the permanent absentee voter list.

Smoke Alarms In Your House

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on some information about smoke alarms to the residents of Milton Township. There are 2 types of smoke alarms - ionization and photoelectric (\$6-\$20). The ionization alarms sound more quickly when a flaming, fast moving fire occurs. Photoelectric alarms are faster at sensing smoldering, smoky fires. The best smoke alarms are those that combine both ionization and photoelectric into one unit (\$24-\$40). There are smoke alarms that are battery operated and ones that are hardwired to electric, and have a battery back-up. The hard-wire smoke alarms are now the standard for new construction, and the battery operated ones now are available with non-replaceable batteries that last up to 10 years. Smoke alarms should be placed in every bedroom, the hallway outside the bedroom, and then at least one on every floor. They range from 8 to 10 years in life span and then need to be replaced. The manufacture date of the alarm is usually stamped on back side. We recommend that you change the battery when you change your clocks each year in the spring and fall, and test your smoke alarm on a monthly basis. For more information on smoke alarms, please visit the USFA Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/.

Chief Gary Brovold
Niles Charter Township Fire

Commissioner's Corner Cass County updates and information

Did you know that one cell phone thrown away, can pollute 40,000 gallons of ground water. This is one reason why the **Cass County "Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics Waste & Tire Collection"** is scheduled for May 21st at the county fairgrounds. **Outdated and obsolete medicine and prescription drugs will also be collected.** See the county website (casscountymi.org) for details.

Please mark your calendar for "**A Night Of Four Thousand Eggs**" to be held on Saturday, April 16 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Dr. T.K. Lawless Park. The cost is \$2.00 each and there will be a Lighted Easter Egg Hunt for children 2-10. In addition there will be refreshments, Wagon Rides, Petting Zoo, Star Gazing, Games and Crafts. Come and have a good time.

The Board of Commissioners has just hired an Administrator/Controller. His name is Charles Cleaver. His recent experience includes being an Administration Director/Deputy Controller at Saginaw County (pop. 210,000) and a Human Resources Director at St. Joseph County, MI (pop. 64,000). Please stop in at the Administration Office and meet him.

The last item I want to mention is the county will hold its annual "County Auction" of confiscated and surplus (no longer needed) county items on June 11, 2011. See website for details.

Robert L. Ziliak, Commissioner, District 15

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor: Robert Benjamin 269-262-0111
supervisor@miltontwp.org

Treasurer: Linda DeBroka 269-684-7262
treasurerdebroka@miltontwp.org

Clerk: Mike Layher 269-684-7262
clerk@miltontwp.org

Trustee: Sharon Ward 269-683-9505
trusteeward@miltontwp.org

Trustee: Don Kronewitter 269-684-0467
trusteekronewitter@miltontwp.org

Planning Commission

Kelly Sweeney, Chair 269-683-2564
Diane Shields, Vice-Chair 269-663-2962
Ronald Jureziz, Secretary 269-684-8546
Jeremy Clanton, 269-684-7111
Richard Hebard 269-663-3324
Sandra Redman, 269-687-1635
Sharon Ward, Ex-Officio 269-683-9505

Zoning Administrator

Paul Sniadecki 269-329-8320
zoning@miltontwp.org

We're on the Web
at
www.miltontwp.org

Assessor

Douglas Brousseau
Edwardsburg, MI
(269) 699-7619

Building Inspector

Wayne Hardin
At the Ontwa Twp. Hall in Edwardsburg
269-663-2347
(Tue., Thu., Sat. / 9am to Noon)

Electrical Inspector

Johnny Hamilton 269-684-7848

Mechanical Inspector

David Swanstrom 269-684-5271

Plumbing Inspector

Ed Wainwright 269-663-8542

Board of Review

Roger Kempton 269-683-2875
Steve Sante 574-220-6085
Mary Waldrop 269-684-7262

Zoning Board of Appeals

Roger Kempton 269-683-2875
Diane Shields 269-663-7508
Linda DeBroka 269-684-7262

MILTON TOWNSHIP
32097 Bertrand Street
Niles, MI 49120

April 2011 Issue

STD MAIL

Permit 449

Niles, MI 49120

Postal Customer